

Minority Health Conference Ready for April 13 Debut

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is finalizing plans for the state's first minority health conference April 13. *Minority Health Conference 2005: Connecting Kansas Communities* will be held at the Holiday Inn/Holidome in [Lawrence](#).

Governor Kathleen Sebelius, and keynote speaker, Dr. David R. Williams, will address issues including the direction and impact of health care among diverse populations in Kansas.



"This conference is designed to bring together health professionals and community champions from across Kansas to share best practices and learn about new strategies and resources to improve the health of diverse populations in the state," said KDHE Secretary Roderick L. Bremby.

"Governor Sebelius has made the improvement and availability of health care and services to all Kansans a priority," Bremby noted, "and by bringing together health care professionals and community partners for this effort, we will be taking steps together to make the Kansas health care system one that is accessible to all populations."

Williams, the Harold W. Cruse Collegiate Professor of Sociology, a Senior Research Scientist at the Institute for Social Research and a Professor of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health, at the University of Michigan has focused his research on social influences on health and is centrally interested in the trends and determinants of socioeconomic and racial differences in mental and physical health. He is the author of more than 125 scholarly papers in scientific journals and edited collections and his research has appeared in leading journals in sociology, psychology, medicine, public health and epidemiology.



Dr. David R. Williams

In addition to the keynote addresses, the conference will offer nine workshops ranging from "The Newest Immigrants" to "Healthy Communities of Color." The sessions will conclude with a summary of the day's activities and a panel discussion of minority health experts on the 'next' steps in improving minority health in Kansas.

KDHE's partnering sponsors include Glaxo Smith Kline, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, AARP, Sunflower Foundation, Region VII U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services/Office of Minority Health, Dept. of African & African-American Studies, at the University of Kansas, Johnson & Johnson, American Diabetes Association, and the Brown Foundation.

Conference planners have received more than 200 registrations and sold out of booth spaces.

Conference information is available on the web at www.minorityhealthks.org or e-mail: minorityhealth@kdhe.state.ks.us.